

Kate Blair
PO BOX 8
Essex, CA 92332
Nov 21, 2000

RECEIVED
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
00 NOV 28 PM 1:45
CALIF. DESERT DISTRICT
RIVERSIDE, CA.

TO: James Williams, BLM

P20

RE: Comments on Cadiz Water Project

As a land and water right owner in the East Mojave, I am against the implementation of this project including the pipeline and the rapping of our underground aquifer. My main objection is over the principle and the dangerous precedent it sets of extracting water from the Southwest deserts to feed the metropolitan areas served by MWD. The scientists that provided the data for the EIR/EIS sound very sure of their predictions of negligible long term impacts to the desert ecosystem. I do not begin to believe that they can predict the effects of what overdrafting the aquifer will produce. The closest model we have is Mono Valley.

P20-1

It is my belief that the water requirements of MWD will continue to increase so that we will seldom if ever see any water put back into the Cadiz aquifer. Realistically, there is too much money to be made selling the water versus storing it. Cadiz Land Company is not in this deal to contribute solutions to California's water crises. The bottom line to any private business is profit. They have no responsibility or liability to the land or their neighbors. Whereas, the BLM carries much of the responsibility to protecting our resources. The BLM should take the initiative in protecting our public resources including our water/groundwater dependent ecosystems by denying them right of way across the very desert that may be potentially impacted.

P20-2

Before the MWD spreads its suckers to any and all unclaimed water, including the Cadiz Aquifer, I think stringent conservation programs should be in place as a prerequisite. To continue supplying water without accountability will just encourage greater consumption and continued wasteful uses. Significant conservation will not happen voluntarily. Then again, if enough hexavalent Chromium is sent to LA maybe that would constitute a conservation effort.

P20-3